



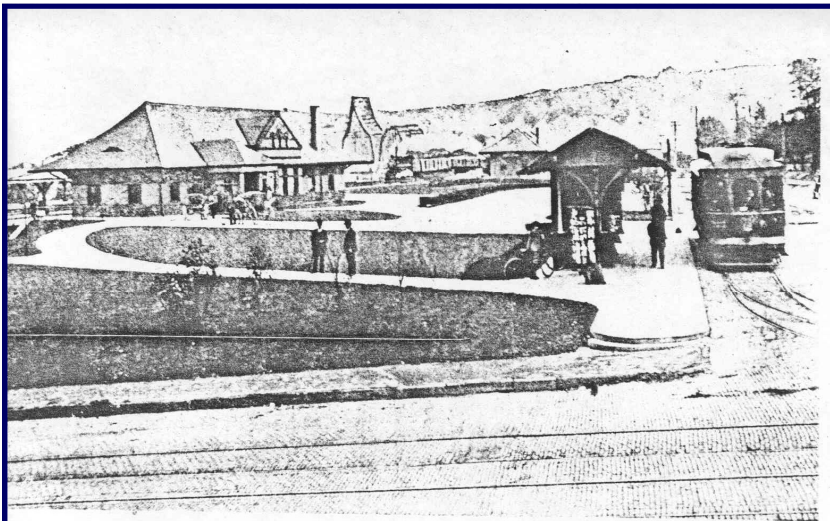
Beaver County Emergency Services

Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 3, Issue 3

Special Anniversary Issue

Dedicated in Loving Memory to Russell T. Chiodo

EMERGENCY SERVICES 35 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE



"The trolley that met all trains." The yellow car of the Steubenville, East Liverpool and Beaver Valley interurban line at the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Station in Beaver.

Beaver County Emergency Services celebrates its 35th year of operation in 2008. What follows is a commemorative history of the center as gathered from local newspaper archives maintained by staff members over the years.

By Schuyler Mu



SUMMER, 2008

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 35 Years of Emergency Services
- ESC Open House & Specialty Team Exhibit
- 2008 Evaluated Exercise

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- EMS News
- BCESC News & Notes
- Events Calendar

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COUNTY POLICE CENTER OPENS

Built in 1897, the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad Company train station at 250 East End Avenue in Beaver Borough was purchased by Beaver County in 1970. By 1973, the Beaver County Police Center found its home in the former locker and washroom used by railroad employees in the basement of the building. This was the first incarnation of the Beaver County Emergency Services Center. At its inception, the county Police Center coordinated police communications for 6 agencies under the direction of Bernard Cashdollar.

CIVIL DEFENSE: THE START OF EMERGENCY MANAGMENT

By 1975, the Beaver County Times reported that, in addition to the communications center, a full time county Civil Defense (CD) department was planned. Joseph Juriga was the county's first CD director; he was assisted by Phillip Starr and secretary Anna Beraducci. The CD office was funded through the state civil service, and operated on the first floor of the train station, with the Police Center still running county communications from the basement of the building.

In the early years of Civil Defense, each municipality was encouraged to appoint a CD coordinator who served in a voluntary capacity very similar to present day municipal emergency management coordinators. According to newspaper articles, Beaver Falls, Aliquippa, and Ambridge had the most active municipal CD offices with well trained staff. As is done in the county's Emergency Management office today, the county assisted municipalities in planning and responding to disasters.

FEBRUARY 22, 1978, BEAVER COUNTY TIMES, BEAVER, PA.
(continued on opposite side)



Communications center

At the Beaver County police network center, the county's present answer to 911, are Wayne Harley, coordinator of Beaver County Emergency Medical Service, Bernard

Cashdollar, Beaver County communications director, Ralph Thompson, a dispatcher, and Russell Chiodo, civil defense director.



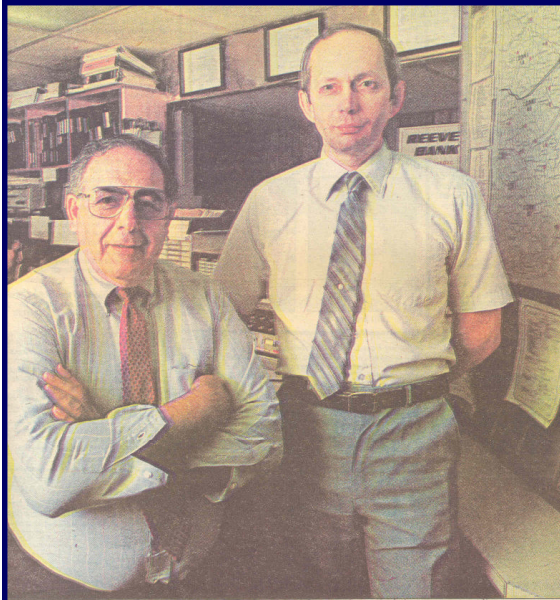
TNT photo by Pete Pavlovic

STATE COUNCIL of Civil Defense presented the keys to a fully equipped rescue vehicle to Beaver County on Monday. The vehicle will be stored at Darlington fire hall and has been assigned a certified rescue crew under the supervision of Civil Defense Director and Fire Chief of Darlington, John Shoaff Jr. From left are Philip Starr, executive director, Beaver County Civil Defense; Daniel Donatella, director, State Council of Civil Defense, and Commissioner George Pettibon, representing Beaver County commissioners. In the background are Dave D'Angelo, left, and Tom Pieri, Darlington firemen.

An article published in the News Tribune in March of 1975 noted that the county CD office was involved in mass casualty planning and had procured several "packaged hospitals" for disaster preparation. Early issues that made the news concerning the Civil Defense office and county Police Center focused primarily on the budding nuclear power presence in the county and the development of emergency plans and protocols in regards to the Shippingport plant. In June of 1975, the Times reported that Dan Donatella replaced Joseph Juriga as county CD director.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION FOUNDED

Also during the summer of 1975, the Beaver County Fire Safety and Control Commission (now known as the county's Public Safety Commission) was founded with 17 members from various municipal fire and police departments along with representation from the county's CD office. The Commission's original purpose was a more technical one than today, with heavier focus on establishing fire safety policies for the county and more involvement in responder training.



Keeping the pulse on public safety

THE FIRST MENTION OF "911" & FAMILIAR NAMES

The Beaver County Times published an article in May of 1976 stating that a "911 system study panel" had been authorized at the county level. While the value of a single number emergency answering and dispatch service was widely recognized, funding issues would slow the process of 911 implementation in the county for over a decade to come. In 1976, Wayne Harley was serving in the position of the "Director of the county Emergency Medical Service Institute", and by the fall of that year, Russell Chiodo had been appointed to the position of county Civil Defense director. Staffing would remain fixed for the next 5 or 6 years, with the CD office headed by Russell and Wayne, and the Police Center under the direction of Bernie Cashdollar until his death in June of 1982. James Diffenbacher assumed the role of communications director in 1982 and held the position until the reorganization of operations the following year.

CD BECOMES EMA

By 1980, Civil Defense had morphed into Emergency Management. The passing of the state Emergency Management Act mandated that municipalities appoint EMA coordinators, most of whom were already in place as CD coordinators. Effectively, the state, county, and local CD offices

simply changed names. Municipal CD coordinators became local EMA coordinators, and Russell Chiodo no longer directed the Beaver County Civil Defense office, but now led the county Emergency Management Agency, which answered to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Progress was also being made on the 911 side as, by June of 1980, the 911 emergency number system had been approved at the state level.

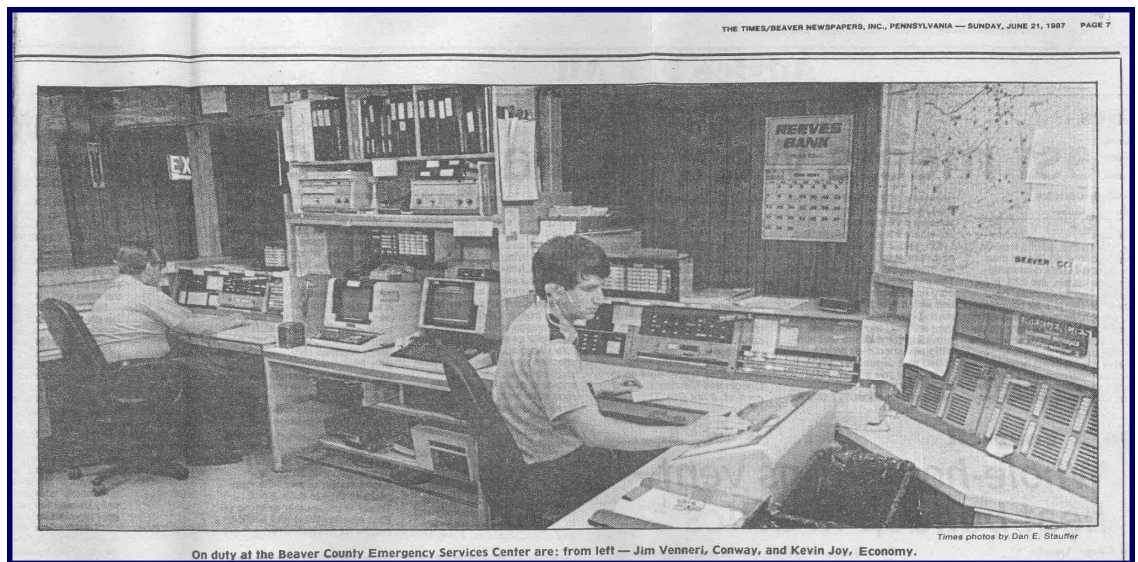
POLICE CENTER AND EMA OFFICE CONSOLIDATED

In 1983, the Beaver County Emergency Services Center, as it exists today, was effectively created when the Police Center and the EMA office consolidated operations under the direction of Russell Chiodo, with Wayne Harley moving into the position of Deputy Director. Dis-

patch communications continued to operate from the lower level of the center, utilizing 10 digit phone lines for incoming calls, with some familiar names joining the team as telecommunicators in the early 1980's: Kevin Joy came on board in 1981, Joe Baron in 1982, and Wesley Hill in 1983.

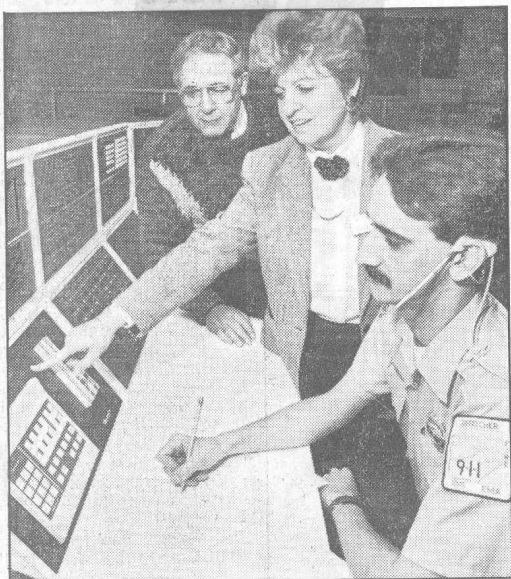
EMERGENCY RESPONSES OF THE 1970'S & 80'S

Russell, Wayne, and the first communications staff responded with grace under pressure to the 1977 fuel shortage, the 1983 Chippewa Township Sewage Treatment Plant explosion, the 1985 tornado disaster, and numerous flood and snow storm events. Besides these major incidents, in the early days, the Emergency Services Center assisted in routine food distribution and helped to coordinate the county's Emergency Fuel Program.



On duty at the Beaver County Emergency Services Center are: from left — Jim Venneri, Conway, and Kevin Joy, Economy.

Times photos by Dan E. Stauffer

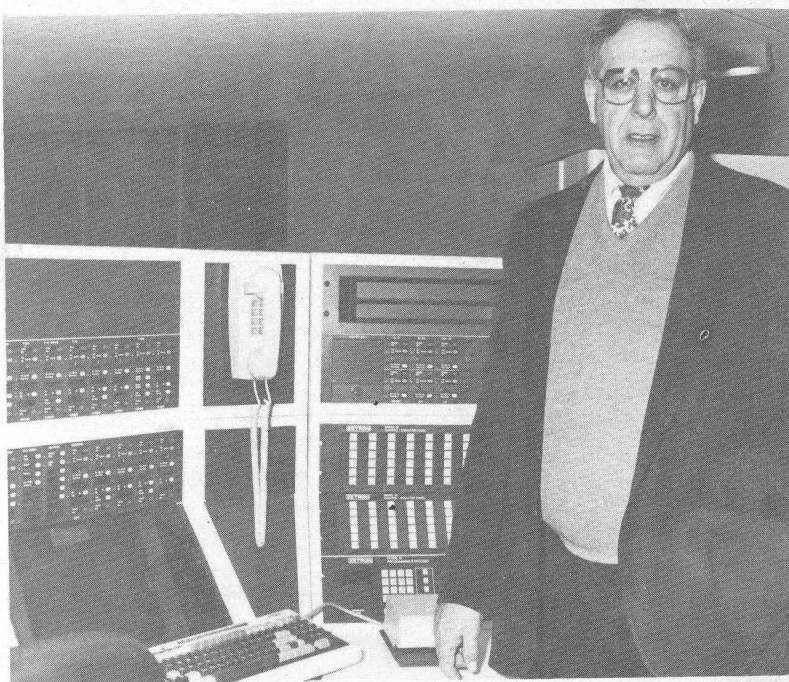


Times photo by Harry Frye

Dedication

Beaver County Commissioners dedicated the county's new 9-1-1 emergency operations center at a ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning. The county's enhanced 9-1-1 system goes into effect next Monday. Learning the new 9-1-1 console is Joe Baron, Baden, right, a dispatcher. Assisting him is Donna Pembroke, Holiday Park, middle, a Bell of Pennsylvania customer education consultant. At left is Russell Chiodo, Patterson Township, the county's emergency services director.

Page 14 — Ellwood City (Pa.) Ledger, Tuesday, Mar. 1, 1988



911 CONSOLE ... Russell T. Chiodo, director of Beaver County Emergency Services Center, stands in front of the control console of the new 911 emergency system which will go into operation on Mon-

day. Located in the basement of the center on East End Ave., Beaver, the system was dedicated during a ceremony on Monday morning.

(Ledge photo by Joe Rickert)

E 911 COMES TO BEAVER COUNTY

Beaver County implemented its enhanced 911 system in 1988 following the construction of a 1.2 million dollar underground communications center across from the location of the former dispatch room. At the time it was built, the center was a regional



SAFETY FIRST . . . The Beaver County Hazardous Materials Response Team is trained to deal with any type of accident or emergency that may occur in the county, such as tornadoes, train derailments and chemical spills. Members of the team are, from left, kneeling - Mike Mamone, assistant emergency management coordinator for the Rochester Twp. fire department; Gene Davis, Potter Twp. fire department; Mike Segal, Center Twp. fire department; Tim Staub, emergency management coordinator for the Beaver Falls Police Department; and Wes Hill, coordinator of the

county fire service/SARA; and standing - Russ Chiodo, director of the Beaver County Emergency Management Services Center; Gary Knight, New Brighton fire department; Ben Rader, Rochester Twp. fire department; Russ Glenz, Brighton Twp. fire department; Gary Van Newkirk, chief of the Hopewell Twp. fire department; Wayne Harley, assistant director of the Beaver County Emergency Management Center; John Zurick, Rochester Medic Rescue; Don Knight, Chippewa Twp. fire department; and Chuck Bowers, Industry Medic Rescue.

model of 911 communications technology, with the E 911 system providing to the dispatcher the telephone number and, if available from the municipality, the address of the 911 caller they were currently assisting.

HAZMAT TEAM FOUNDED

The county began to see a need for an organized Hazardous Materials team following a chemical spill in Ambridge Borough in 1989. Beaver County's Hazmat Team 700 was formally established shortly after. The county's Hazardous Materials Garage was constructed in 1995 on Route 51 to store the team's response vehicles and equipment. The garage was expanded in 2006 to include a training facility and now houses not only county hazmat equipment but also regional assets acquired through Department of Homeland Security funding and distributed through the Region 13 Task Force. The "packaged hospitals" of the Civil Defense era are the Mass Casualty Trailers of today.



DEDICATION CEREMONY . . . The new emergency operations center located in the basement of the Beaver County Emergency Services Center, Beaver, was dedicated May 16. Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were, from left - state Rep. Nick Colabella; Dan Donatelli and Roger Jarvis, Beaver County commissioners; Debbie Tallon, who was representing

county commissioner James Albert; state Sen. Gerald LaValle; Mike Dixon of the western area of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (EMA); Russell Chiodo, director of the Beaver County EMA; and Wayne Harley, assistant director of the county EMA.
Trib photo by Gwenie Sloan

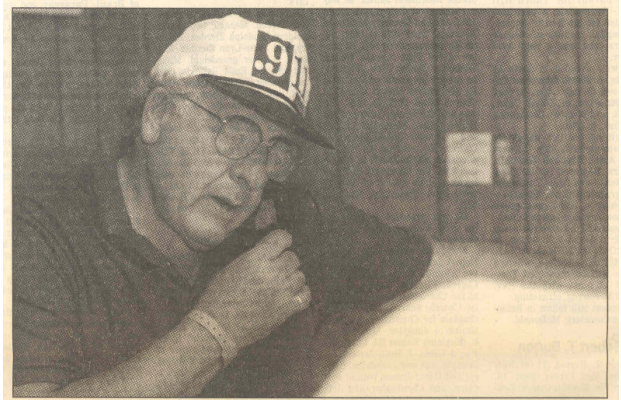
FORMAL EOC CREATED

With the 911 center in its present day location as of 1988, the former communications room was renovated and reopened in 1991 as the county's Emergency Operations Center. While federally evaluated nuclear evacuation drills had been held in the building since the early 1980's, the county's first nuclear exercise in its dedicated EOC was held in 1992.

FLIGHT 427 & REMEMBERING RUSSELL

The largest scale disaster in Beaver County Emergency Services' history happened in September of 1994 when US Air Flight 427

crashed in Hopewell Township as it was nearing Pittsburgh International Airport. All 132 aboard were killed, and the coordinated response of the region's emergency services, before there was a Region 13 Task Force, proved invaluable during the emotionally and physically taxing recovery effort. It was a defining event in the careers of most of the responders involved, and, some might say, *the* defining event in Russell Chiodo's emergency services career. In an article published on September 19, 1994 in the Beaver County Times, journalist Jeanne Mooney wrote that "Chiodo is an emotional man, known well for his gruffness and tenacity. . . But, having had his say, he is apt to soften and put his arm around the person with whom he's been arguing." Russell's compassion for the victims as well as the responders with whom he coordinated shone, and, as he was quoted in numerous articles at the time, the incident crystallized for him the importance of cherishing family and friends and living each day as if it were his last.



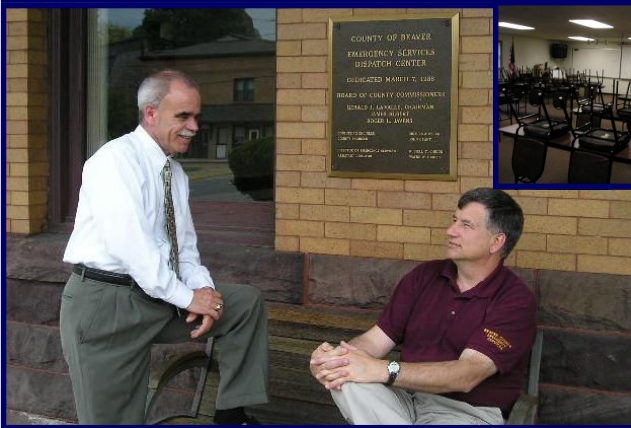
Russ Chiodo, director of Beaver County's Emergency Management Services, is on call 24-hours a day. After USAir Flight 427 crashed in Hopewell Township on Sept. 8, Chiodo went two days without sleep to help coordinate efforts at the crash site.
Times photo by Sylvester Washington Jr.

RECENT AND UPCOMING CHANGES

With the exception of security enhancements in recent years, building renovations to the old train station site ceased after the major improvements were completed in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Kevin Joy moved up from dispatch supervisor to Deputy Director in 2001 upon Wayne Harley's retirement after 25 years with the county's emergency services. And Russell Chiodo retired as ESC Director in February of 2004 after almost 30 years of service, with Wesley Hill stepping into his position.

The biggest physical change to the county's Emergency Services operation is on the horizon. A new center is currently being planned to be located in Ambridge Borough and should be operational in 2009.

In addition to staff offices, the new center will include a secure 911 communications center, a larger



multimedia Emergency Operations Center, as well as a public meeting / media room.

Current images of Beaver County Emergency Services above, clockwise from top left: Beaver County's Hazmat Team 700 as pictured in February 2008 with the new special services response truck, the Hazmat Garage and new training room addition, a fully computerized Emergency Operations Center, and the current ESC director and deputy, Wesley Hill and Kevin Joy.



EMS NEWS

By Eric Brewer,
Beaver County EMS Coordinator



Mass Casualty Drill

On May 4th, the Aliquippa Fire Department sponsored a Mass Casualty Drill within the city. The scenario was set up by the fire department and included a bus accident with approximately 25 patients who were triaged and transported. From an EMS perspective, the drill tested how well the fire and EMS agencies worked together during the rescue, triage, and transport of patients. As always, we learned some of our strengths as well as some of our weaknesses. Two of the top weaknesses involved communications issues and the lack of awareness regarding resources available to responders. These same weaknesses were also deficiencies that came out of the "Steel Hammer" exercise in 2007. In the future, we will try to work on improving our communications and resource availability through trainings and functional drills.

Mark 1 Kits

On April 16th and 23rd, Beaver County, along with Region 13, sponsored the Mark 1 Train-the-Trainer course that was held at the 171st PA Air National Guard base. Approximately 45 supervisory level personnel attended from throughout the Region's 13 counties and the City of Pittsburgh. These individuals brought back the class to be taught to the EMS services in their area. The 171st was happy to present this to the civilian community and to promote readiness in an emergency.

Strike Team Training

On April 5th and 6th, the PA Department of Health Region 4 Strike Team spent the weekend training on the grounds of the Darlington Fire Station. The training consisted of setting up the casualty collection shelters as well as the communications that the team brings with them. Several team members got to test the "EMS Hummer" from Mon Valley EMS at the off road course at BeaverRun Motor Sports complex. Employees of Medic Rescue attended the training as they are one of the newest services to be part of the regional strike team. This Strike Team was deployed to Mississippi and Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina.

National EMS Week

EMS week is May 18th - 24th. This year EMSI partnered with Eat N Park in a promotional campaign to highlight EMS week. Along with a press conference that was held at the Eat N Park in Robinson Township (Allegheny County), there was a new website developed that contains information about what we do as EMS providers. The website, www.doUrealize.com, allows people to post a "thank you" note to their EMS provider and serves to increase recognition of EMS in the community. Thanks should go out to EMSI, our regional EMS Council, and Eat N Park for taking a positive approach in the promotion of EMS.

EMS Act

We have received confirmation from the Bureau of EMS, PA Department of Health, that the revisions to the EMS Act will be introduced in the PA General Assembly during EMS Week. A formal announcement ceremony was held in Harrisburg on May 22nd at the Main Capital Rotunda.

Eric Brewer can be reached at: ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov

Emergency Services Open House & Specialty Team Exhibit

Keep your eyes open at the end of July for the first **“Beaver County Emergency Services Open House & Specialty Team Exhibit”**. In an effort to keep all of the county’s front line emergency responders aware of the specialized teams and equipment available to them, we will be hosting an open house at the Beaver County Emergency Services Hazardous Materials Garage and Training facility (Route 51 by the walking trail in Brady’s Run Park). On display will be the specialized response teams and equipment that Beaver County has to offer.



We all need to be more successful in developing working relationships between the agencies involved in actual emergencies. Too many times information does not get relayed to those who are on the front line of the emergency, and we want those who respond to be aware of what is available to them just by picking up the radio.

Come and enjoy a night of networking and education. Some of the equipment on display will be from the following specialized teams:

ATV Search	Water Rescue
Technical Rescue	Haz-Mat
Missing Person Task Force	911/Mobile Communications
AND MORE!!!	

Look for updates from Emergency Services as we will finalize the date and time for this event soon.

For more information contact:

Eric Brewer, *Beaver County EMS Coordinator*

724-775-1700, ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov

NEWS & NOTES

- **United States Congressman Jason Altmire** delivered a check for \$681,500.00 to Emergency Services on March 17, 2008. The funds were made available, with the assistance of Ron Klink and Associates, through federal and congressional appropriations. The grant will be used to make communication systems upgrades as the county continues to work on enhancing public safety radio operations with infrastructure and equipment improvements.
- Congratulations are due to Travis Herman and Elizabeth Moore who both successfully completed telecommunicator training in March and officially joined the Emergency Services staff as **part time dispatchers**.
- Quarterly training for **Beaver County Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators** was held on April 22. Wes Hill & Kevin Joy led the training, which consisted of Mutual Aid Agreement review, 2008 exercise briefing, and Knowledge Center information updates. The remaining 2008 quarterly trainings have been scheduled for July 22 and October 21. Both will be held at the Emergency Services Center with two times available, 1 - 4 PM or 6 - 9 PM.
- **Pre-exercise training sessions** were held in May in preparation for this year's federally evaluated nuclear exercise. Risk Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators participated in **Knowledge Center** training on May 20th, and Beaver County Emergency Operations Center Staff underwent similar training on May 28th. The county hopes to incorporate the use of the regional web based incident and resource tracking tool in this year's exercise at the municipal and county levels.



Congressman Jason Altmire, second from left, presents the appropriations check to, from left to right, County Commissioner Charlie Camp, Chairman Commissioner Tony Amadio, Commissioner Joe Spanik, and ESC Director Wesley Hill.

2008 EVALUATED EXERCISE - OFFSITE ACTIVITIES ARE IN FULL SWING

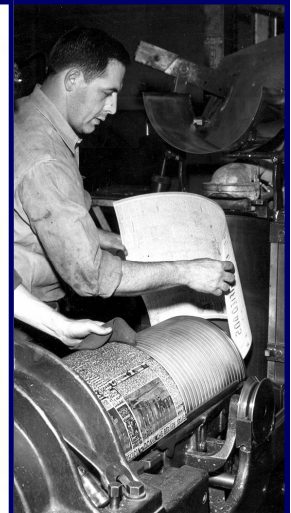
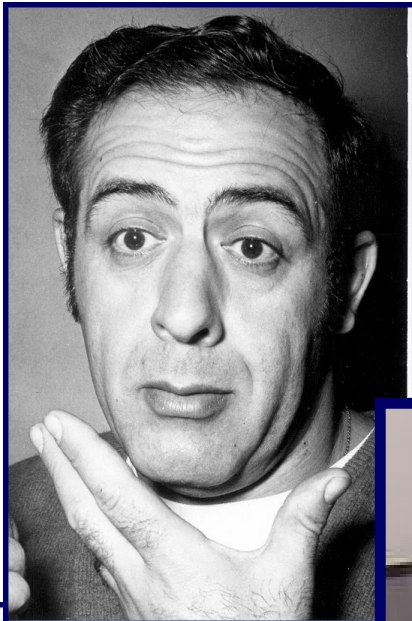
By Ed Barth

Yes, it's that time of (every other) year. We are officially up to our elbows in exercise prep. Over 1,000 individuals from 3 states, 7 counties, 27 municipalities, and 13 school districts will be involved in supporting the Beaver Valley Power Station in completing its federally evaluated exercise on June 24th. Beaver Valley is unique from an offsite standpoint due to the fact that we have three states and three counties that fall within our Emergency Planning Zone. In addition, due to the fact that Pennsylvania is a Commonwealth, there are 27 municipalities within Beaver County that will be trained, drilled, and evaluated by DHS/FEMA in the Evaluated Exercise.

Preparations started back in November at the Annual Municipal Emergency Coordinators dinner. This is the first opportunity for the municipalities to start planning ahead and scheduling training. Several of the exercise activities are demonstrated "out of sequence". In other words, not during the actual exercise on June 24th. On May 14th, in Beaver County, all 11 school districts, 2 Emergency Worker Monitoring and Decontamination Stations, and the 4 Support County Monitoring and Decontamination Centers and Reception and Mass Care Centers were evaluated by DHS/FEMA personnel. In West Virginia, Emergency Worker Monitoring and Decontamination, Access & Traffic Control Points, and Route Alerting were also demonstrated for the evaluators. Then on June 24th, all 3 states' Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), the 7 County EOC's and the 27 Municipal EOC's will demonstrate their ability in the areas of Protective Action Decisions, evacuation, Route Alerting, and various other activities required for a successful exercise.

In Memory of "The Kingpin"

Russell, you were one of a kind, loved and respected by many, and you will be remembered always...



JUNE 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- **11th - 12th:** PEMA Quarterly Training, Erie
- **13th:** Flag Day, County Offices Closed
- **16th - 20th:** Camp Deputy, Brady's Run Park
- **17th:** Knowledge Center Exercise, 6 PM, County & Risk Municipal EOCs and Decon Stations
- **22nd:** United Valley REACT, 6 PM
- **24th:** Federally Evaluated BVPS Exercise
- **25th:** Hazmat Refresher training for LE, 1 PM, Hazmat Garage

JULY 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

- **4th:** Independence Day, County Offices Closed
- **10th:** American Messaging Paging Representative, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **15th:** BVPS Quarterly Meetings with Counties, 10 AM & 1 PM
- **20th:** United Valley REACT, 6 PM
- **22nd:** Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator Quarterly Training, 1 - 4 PM or 6 - 9 PM

AUGUST 2008

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- **5th:** EMS Provider's Meeting, 10 AM
- **10th:** United Valley REACT, 6 PM
- **12th:** Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting, 2:30 PM
- **14th:** American Messaging Paging Representative, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **20th:** Hazmat Team 700 Training, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage

ALL EVENTS LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



EMERGENCY SERVICES

250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009
724-775-1700

BEAVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TONY AMADIO, CHAIRMAN
JOE SPANIK
CHARLES A. CAMP

EMERGENCY SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION
WESLEY W. HILL, DIRECTOR
KEVIN J. JOY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Beaver County Courthouse • 810 Third Street • Beaver, PA 15009
724-728-3934 • www.beavercountypa.gov

Want to contribute?
E-mail the editor,
Schuyler Mu , at
smu@beavercountypa.gov

The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (BCESC).

The BCESC is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. The BCESC manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. The BCESC is also the home of the county's Hazmat Team 700, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services.

The BCESC works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to the residents and businesses of Beaver County.

Beaver County Emergency Services
250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009

